

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 062

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR EUR/SE WILLIAM EAGLETON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH SURVEILLANCE OF POPPY GROWING

REF: GENEVA 5807

1. WE HOPE THAT MAMBY'S PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT
TURKISH IOPPY SURVEILLANCE EFFORTS CONTAINED PARA 2 REFTTEL;
NAMELY, THAT "IT APPEARS TO BE A MAJOR SUCCESS AND WELL
WORTH THE PRICE" WOULD
BE USEFUL IN WEDNESDAY'S AND THURSDAY'S
CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE ON LIFTING OF EMBARGO. IN ADDITION (ALTHOUGH
WE MUST CONTINUE TO WARN THAT ALL RETURNS ARE NOT IN),
HIGHLIGHTS FROM FOLLOWING REPORT I HAVE JUST RECEIVED FROM
EMBASSY POPPY EXPERT, STAN SAMUELSON, MAY ALSO BE OF VALUE:

EXCERPTS FOLLOW: "AFTER WORKING NEARLY THREE YEARS
IN THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS AND WITNESSING COMPLETE
COMPLIANCE WITH THE BAN ON PRODUCTION, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
OPTIMISTIC THAT FARMERS WOULD COMPLY WITH THE NO INCISION
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RULE. WHILE THE CONTROL PROGRAM UNDOUBTEDLY HAS WEAK

SPOTS, I BELIEVE THE DESTRUCTION OF OVERPLANTINGS AND FREQUENT VISITS BY TMO HAVE BEEN A GREAT DETERENT AND THE RISK OF BEING CAUGHT INCISING IS VERY GREAT. ALL FARMERS CONTACTED SAID THEIR FIELDS HAVE BEEN VISITED FREQUENTLY BY TMO TEAMS. IN DOGANHISAR FARMERS ALSO REPORTED GENDARMA HAD SOMETIMES ACCOMPANIED TMO TEAMS. "..... ALL FARMERS REPORTED THAT TMO WAS MAKING INSPECTIONS FOR MATURITY AND NO INCISION BEFORE PERMISSION IS GRANTED TO HARVEST. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT TMO TEAMS MAY NOT BE GOING INTO EVERY FARMER'S FIELD BUT THAT MOST FIELDS IN ANY ONE VILLAGE ARE INSPECTED. THIS GIVES ME NO PROBLEM SINCE PLANTINGS ARE GENERALLY SO CONTIGUOUS AND NEAR THE ROADS AND VILLAGE CENTERS THAT INCISION WOULD BE OBVIOUS." END EXCERPTS.

2. SAMUELSON CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT ALL PRELIMINARY SIGNS ARE THAT SURVEILLANCE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THERE CAN, OF COURSE, BE NO GUARANTEE AGAINST SOME SLIPPAGE, BUT EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO DATE TO GOT, UN AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS IS DEFINITELY ENCOURAGING. ALSO, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VERY FEW SPRING PLANTING AREAS, POPPIES HAVE NOW MATURED PAST THE POINT WHEN OPIUM CAN BE RECOVERED BY THE INCISING PROCESS.
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